

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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INTERIOR DEPARTMENT CHANGING EMPHASIS OF ITS GREAT LAKES FISHERY LABORATORY

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel today said the role of the Department's fishery laboratory at Ann Arbor, Michigan, is being changed to emphasize quality of the environment and recreational fishing.

The Secretary said that in recent years it has become apparent that the critical need to protect and enhance America's environment as well as the need for increased recreation opportunities are the predominant interests of virtually all of the Great Lake States.

In recognition of the environmental needs and the recreational requirements of the rapidly expanding populace of the area, the responsibility of the two bureaus comprising the Fish and Wildlife Service in this area will be redistributed.

The activities of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife as lead agency in the laboratory's operations will be fully implemented starting July 1, 1970.

Secretary Hickel said, "When the transition is completed, I intend to push strongly for a rapid expansion of the laboratory's environmental program in fiscal year 1972."

Secretary Hickel said that the Department's long range plan calls for increased funding in fiscal year 1972 and greater emphasis on better recreational fishing and improved quality of the environment.

Secretary Hickel added, "We are confident that this move will contribute to the President's program for fighting pollution, improving the environment and providing more and better recreational areas for the American people."

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